

REMARKS

The comments of the applicant below are each preceded by related comments of the examiner (in small, bold type).

Re claims ... 33-38, Graef teaches a thickness indicator apparatus used in Automated Teller Machine (ATM) (see abstract; col. 2, lines 27+) for detecting double bills when the bills are retrieved from the stack (col. 1, lines 34+; col. 3, lines 58+; col. 6, lines 4+). . The thickness detector is comprised of two elongated fingers 50 (or free ends) attached to a wishbone 45 (col. 4, lines 16+; see figure 3). When bills move between the plate 42 and the elongated fingers 50, the elongated fingers are displaced/pushed by the thickness of the bill (col. 4, line 51 — col. 5, line 37).

...

5. Claims ... 25, and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Graef et al. (US 4,664,369, previously cited).

Although Graef does not explicitly suggests the details of the housing as they are recited in the above-mentioned claims (snap-in bearings and grounding elements comprising braided wire and metal lugs), it is the Examiner's view that Graef shows a box-type of housing which is substantially the same housing Applicant claims.

In order to simplify the prosecution, the applicant has canceled claims 1 through 24, 26 through 29, 30 through 34, and 38 for the moment and reserves the right to pursue them later.

Independent claims 25 and 35 (now amended) recite important patentable features other than detection of double bills. The examiner has rejected these claims in a cursory manner that does not establish a prima facie case of why they are not patentable.

Claim 25, for example, recites a combination of features of the structure of the currency dispenser that together help to make the dispenser inexpensive and easy to manufacture and maintain. The substantially linear paper path between the opening through which money is withdrawn from the money box and the dispensing location reduces the part count, the difficulty of assembly, the likelihood of jams, and the difficulty and cost of maintenance. Using five molded walls in the configuration recited in claim 25 also significantly reduces the cost compared to stamped or machined parts, reduces the weight, and makes manufacturing easier. And plastic snap in bearings to support the rotational shafts has some of the same benefits. Graef, of course, does not describe how his housing is constructed and so does not describe and would not have made obvious the linear paper path, the molded side walls and their relationships, or the plastic snap in bearings. In fact, Graef does not appear to show or describe a currency dispenser, but only a bill picker and his frame 15 is apparently a frame of the picker. The examiner's

assertion that "Graef shows a box-type of housing which is substantially the same housing Applicant claims" appears to have no basis at all.

Claim 35 recites a method in which currency is routed by default to a retention location, e.g., rather than being dispensed, unless there is a "determination that a flaw is not present." For example, the method does not assume as a default that the bill is good to be dispensed. When the bill is a first in a series to be dispensed, the default routing is applied only to the first bill after which the remaining bills in the series are routed by default to the dispensing location. The examiner simply has not addressed these features and has not explained why claim 35 is not patentable.

All of the dependent claims are patentable for at least similar reasons as those for the claims on which they depend are patentable.

Canceled claims, if any, have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

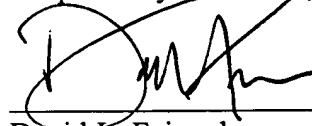
Any circumstance in which the applicant has (a) addressed certain comments of the examiner does not mean that the applicant concedes other comments of the examiner, (b) made arguments for the patentability of some claims does not mean that there are not other good reasons for patentability of those claims and other claims, or (c) amended or canceled a claim does not mean that the applicant concedes any of the examiner's positions with respect to that claim or other claims.

Enclosed is a \$225 check for the Petition for Extension of Time fee. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050, reference 13543-003001.

Date: _____

12/12/01

Respectfully submitted,



David L. Feigenbaum
Reg. No. 30,378